

## Panel to cook up new suggestions for Pecos Center kitchen

by [Cathryn Creno](#) - Feb. 24, 2009 08:17 AM  
 The Arizona Republic

Just because the city can't afford to keep open a state-of-the-art kitchen in the Ahwatukee Foothills [Pecos Community Center](#) does not mean the facility should sit idle, Phoenix City Councilman Sal DiCiccio said Monday.

DiCiccio asked the [Ahwatukee Foothills Village Planning Committee](#) to form a subcommittee to figure out an alternative use for the kitchen, which opened in 2007.

The kitchen will no longer be used to prepare meals starting Monday. Instead, staff there will reheat meals that are trucked in from a center in another part of the city.

The Pecos Senior Center has an average daily attendance of about 60, city officials said.

Dozens of seniors have complained to [City Hall](#) about the end of their existing meals program.

"We spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on this kitchen and now it is just sitting

here," DiCiccio said. "One idea that has come up is that we should lease the kitchen to individuals in the community who want to run it. We need a group to come up with some ways to save the kitchen."

The kitchen has a stove with eight burners, several warming ovens, walk-in freezers and refrigerators and a free-standing kettle.

DiCiccio also asked village planners to form a subcommittee to study and make a recommendation on a recent Maricopa Association of Government proposal to scale back a proposed extension of the South Mountain Freeway through Ahwatukee.

The idea, discussed at a MAG meeting last month, would be to build a six-lane parkway instead of a 10-lane freeway along Pecos Road.

"I don't profess to know all the answers," DiCiccio said. "There are a lot smarter people around than me. I want to draw on that."

[Doug Cole](#), chairman of the village planning committee, said the subcommittees would be appointed in the next several days.

**Reach the reporter at 602-444-7968 or [cathryn.creno@hotmail.com](mailto:cathryn.creno@hotmail.com)**

Advertisement

Find out what you should be  
 paying for a car.



Confidence Comes Standard.™

©2008 Classified Ventures, LLC. All rights reserved.

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™